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AUGUST REVOLUTION AND TWO YEARS' NATIONAL GOVT IN MIDNAPORE

PART—I (Tamluk)

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What Happened in (Tamluk) Midnapore.

HARROWING TALES OF REPRESSION : LOOT, INCENDIARISM AND ASSAULT ON WOMEN.

The happenings in Tamluk Sub-division of Midnapore during the period from August, 1942 to September, 1944 are contained in the report of a non-official committee composed of Sj. Satish Chandra Samanta, President, Sub-divisional Congress Committee, Tamluk, Sj. Syamadas Bhattacharyya, Advocate, Calcutta High Court, Professor, City College, Com. Dept., Sj. Ananga Mohan Das, Joint Secretary, Tamluk Sub-Divisional Congress Committee, Sj. Prahlad Kumar Pramanik, Former Secretary, Mahendra Relief Committee, Tamluk and President, Tamluk Thana Congress Committee. The report is published below. It gives a connected story of the mass upheaval in the district and the acts of cruelty and repression, sometimes amounting to arson, loot and rape which were perpetrated on the people.

Tamluk is a Sub-Division of the district of Midnapore. It is divided into six thanas, namely, Sutahata, Nandigram, Mahishadal, Tamluk, Moyna,

and Panskura. In the whole Sub-division, the town of Tamluk only has a municipality, with a population of 12,000. The Sub-division has 76 Unions consisting of 1,246 villages and a total population of 7,53,152. The total number of families is 1,42,200.

From long before World War II, under the Midnapore District Congress Committee. Tamluk had one Sub-divisional Congress Committees, all active and well organised. Under the Thana Congress Committees, there were 52 Primary Congress Committees, one in each Union. Four Thana Congress Committees had their own office buildings ; two others had their offices in hired houses.

D. I. A. IN OPERATION

Meetings and Processions Banned

Immediately on the outbreak of the War the Defence of India Act was brought into operation here and meetings and processions were banned. This prohibitory order made it extremely difficult for the Congressmen to continue having their mass contact. Even in respect of a purely non-political subject, namely, Cess revaluation of the District. Congressmen were refused to permission to hold meetings. At this time, the Sub-divisional workers

devoted themselves to constructive programme. Some workers were sent to Wardha and other places and were given training in Khadi and in the manufacture of paper as a cottage industry. A woman's training camp was run for two months at Sutahata Gandhi Asram to impart training to female workers. It was Khadi which received special attention. Khadi centres were started under the supervision of trained workers in different thanas. Thirty maunds of cotton seeds were brought and distributed. Four hundred maunds of cotton were sold and distributed. 3,500 spinners produced Khadi for themselves and for their families. Besides this at a Khadi centhe, 4,000 spinners had worked their Charkas and taken half the yarn spun as labour charges. The majority of the spinners were women.

There were nine Harijan Schools in the Sub-division. Most of these schools received grants from the Harijan Board of Mahatma Gandhi. There were two night schools for adults. For the spread of Hindi language a school was opened where a few men and women were first given lessons. Then these people acted as teacher in five centres opened in the subdivision.

INDIVIDUAL SATYAGRAHA

When Mahatmaji launched his individual satyagraha movement as a moral protest against the war, Dr. Prafulla Chandra Ghosh offered satyagraha at Gandhi Asram of Basudebpur. He was arrested there and a few minutes after his arrest Babu Kumar Chandra Jana, President Midnapur District Congress Committee was put under arrest, while offering satyagraha. Each of them was sentenced to one year's R. I. In individual satyagraha movement the total number of arrested persons and imprisoned was thirty-six. Many satyagrahis, though they had offered satyagraha immediately on their release. Two workers started for Delhi to offer satyagraha. They were put under arrest on their way. These arrests and imprisonments proved a source of encouragement and inspiration to the people.

DENIAL POLICY

How People Suffered A Great Loss.

Tamluk Sub-division along with other parts of Midnapore was declared an emergency area for fear of Japanese invasion. Most of the motor buses plying in the Sub-division were removed. The rest which were left had a ludicrously low amount of petroleum allotted to them. The panicky authorities

callously disregarded the interests of the people who were put to endless suffering for want of the buses.

Then came another order on April 8, 1942. The irresponsible authorities wanted the removal of all types of boats, lest the Japanese should use them. The District Magistrate issued an order that all types of boats of the entire Contai Sub-division and the Nandigram thana and Moyna thana of the Tamluk Sub-division must be removed within 3 hours to a certain place the distance varying from 30 to 90 miles from the prescribed areas. This impossible order could not be executed. It only opened an avenue of bribery to the corrupt officials. Hundreds of boats were burnt and destroyed and thousands of rupees worth of valuable property wantonly destroyed. This cruel act, we do not know what purpose it served to the Government, only deprived, innumerable people of their only means of subsistence. Sj. Santosh Kumar Basu, a minister of the Bengal Government at that time, appeared in the scene in defence of the policy and gave an assurance that compensation would be paid. We only want to declare that the compensation, far from being adequate, was in most cases nominal and there were cases, where no compensation whatsoever had been paid.

CYCLES REMOVED.

Then there came still another order, equally oppressive, for removing bi-cycles. The entire area covered by Nandigram, Sutahata, Mahishadal and Moyna, and a substantial area of Tamluk and Panskura thanas were denuded of bi-cycles. Nominal compensation was paid. Twenty-five per cent of the owners of the bi-cycles got 8 annas to Rs. 5/- and fifty per cent got Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 as compensation. On an average Rs. 12/- was paid. Many persons refused to accept the low compensation offered. All this senseless denial policy only served to strengthen the determination of the people to do away with the system responsible for their miseries. The irresponsible authorities, struck with overwhelming terror of Japanese invasion, nervously followed the denial policy in utter disregard of the miseries which their senseless policy heaped upon the people.

CONGRESS REACTION

Popular Organisation For Self-Protection

It was apprehended from the frenzied activities of the authorities that they would run away at the first sight of the Japanese, leaving us to our fate. So it was thought necessary to make preparation o

cope with the anarchy which might otherwise overtake the country. A large army of volunteers was raised Sutahata and Mahishadal took the lead in this matter. In these two thanas two trained volunteer corps styled, "Vidyut Bahinis" (Lightning Armies) were formed in the course of one month, 3,000 volunteers were enlisted. The number soon rose to 5,000. The corps contained fifty female volunteers. Several camps were started to train these volunteers. A "Bhagini Sena Sibir" (Sisters' Army Camp) was also started at Sutahata. These camps were specially meant for full-time workers. Many prominent leaders including Dr. Prafulla Chandra Ghosh, member of Congress Working Committee, Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee, Sj. Ananda Prosad Chowdhury and Sj. Panchanan Basu, paid visits to the Sub-division and inspired the people. Side by side with recruitment of volunteers a large sum of money and rice and paddy were collected. Our workers appealed to the people to be fearless and to organise themselves for resisting all sorts of oppression, and advised them to grow more food, to produce necessities as far as possible, to use only indigenous article and to preserve food grains inside the Sub-division and not to allow them to be exported.

We calculated and proved by facts and figures

that the year 1941 would be a deficit year so far as the food-situation of the sub-division was concerned. The District Magistrate was approached, but the bureaucratic head of the District did not condescend to listen to our advice. We advised stopping of all exports of paddy and rice from the sub-division and importing of paddy from outside to improve the situation. Our advise was thrown to the winds. On the other hand, the policy of creating panic by the District authorities stimulated exports of paddy and rice. Congress workers protested, but they found themselves in jail on various pretexts. Whoever appealed to the District Judge got acquitted. But, then, there was the lawless law, the Defence of India Rules. It was applied to put into prison three workers without trial. This conflict between us and the Government on the issue of exports of paddy and rice reached its climax at Danipur in Mahishadal thana.

FIRST POLICE FIRING

Public Protest Against Export Of Rice

On September 8, 1942, Sj. Sudhir Kumar Sarker Police Officer, went with a number of constables to Danipur and helped the owners of the rice mill to export rice. About two and a half thousand villagers assembled and wanted to stop the export.

The police opened fire and killed three people. This was the first shooting incident in the Sub-division. It is to be noted that at the time of occurrence there was no Congress volunteer present, the whole incident was the spontaneous attempt of the villagers to obstruct the police in their activities. The crowd withdrew and informed the Congress Office which was situated at a distance of eight miles. Then 40 volunteers came to the mill followed by six thousand villagers. Meanwhile from Tamluk town the Third Officer Sj. Apurba Ghose, came to the spot with 40 armed constables. The Congress volunteers demanded stopping of paddy and wanted the dead bodies. After some tussle, it was agreed that the dead bodies would be returned at Tamluk after post-mortem examination. But the authorities did not keep their promise. The dead bodies were not handed over to the people, on the other hand, these were thrown into the river. Some villagers recovered the dead bodies from the river, but the bodies were snatched away by the police and under armed guard, burnt in one single pyre. Next day, the District Magistrate raided the six neighbouring villages and arrested about two hundred innocent villagers. They were made to sit in the sun the whole day. They were not given any food. Only 13 persons

were sent up and sentenced to different terms of imprisonment, ranging from 1½ yrs. to 2 yrs. The mill owners had to bow to public opinion. They were fined Rs. 2000/- which was promptly paid. Out of this Rs. 1500/- was paid to the families of the bereaved. The mill owners expressed regret for having exported paddy and promised not to do so in future.

In like manner, Congress attempt to stop export of paddy and rice from the Sub-division was largely successful. At last, the District authorities issued an order prohibiting export of paddy. This order was withdrawn, when the August Revolution broke out. The Congress at once, resorted to picketing and other means, and stopped export of paddy and rice. It was only after the Cyclone of the 16th October, 42, that another order was issued prohibiting export of paddy and rice. The Government authorities in this way followed an uncertain and vacillating policy in regard to paddy and rice, which greatly aggravated the distress of the people of this area. The Congress, on the other hand, saw clearly from facts and figures, that there would be a deficit of food, and therefore followed consequently a policy of stopping all exports and encouraging imports of paddy and rice for the people. Persons having surplus paddy were induced to sell it to the

local people at a reasonable price and in many cases, on credit without interest.

AUGUST REVOLUTION

Fire That Set the Whole Sub-division Ablaze

The Sub-division along with other parts of the district was a vast powder magazine. The "Quit India" resolution and the arrest of the leaders applied fire to it. The ruthless policy of repression of the authorities prepared the field of action. An unjust Cess Revaluation was made in the teeth of opposition of the people. All meetings and processions were under ban. Public opinion was sought to be stifled. Prices were soaring to great heights. War bonds were being sold by the exercise of undue influence and coercion among all sections of people, the poor and the rich, the school teacher, the pleader, the shop-keeper, the boat-man, the poor plough-man—all were equally subjected to pressure to purchase warbonds and to subscribe to war funds. The sub-division had been deprived of the normal means of conveyance—boats, bi-cycles and buses had been taken away. The inevitable, famine, engineered and wrought up by a dangerous policy, was already casting its gloomy shadow over the Sub-division. All these served to accentuate the

bitter feelings against the British rule and people every day grew stronger in their determination to end the foreign order and achieve freedom.

Meetings and Processions

In numerable meetings were held. Topics discussed related to the war situation, Bombay Resolution, and non-violent revolution. The meetings and processions consisted of 5 to 10 thousand people Hindus and Mahomedan processionists held demonstrations before the Law Courts, Government offices and Police stations and in the huge public meetings held in front of these places, war was declared against the British and each thana was declared independent. Congress volunteers used to conduct these meetings and processions which were always peaceful. In Mahishadal thana a band of national volunteers in uniform used to lead the processions. When a meeting of 20,000 people held before the Mahishadal Police Station declared its resolution of Independence, Mr. Shaikh I. C. S., the S. D. O. of Tamluk, was there with some constables. He ordered the arrest of four speakers, but the crowd refused to let them have arrested. Mr. Shaikh asked the constables to make a lathi charge. The constables, however, did not move and Mr. Shaikh, dumbfounded

withdrew rapidly with his constables. This was the only instance of official interference with meetings before 29. 9. 42. Hundreds of such meetings and processions were arranged, but except in a few, the Government apparently had none of their agents.

Hartal and flag Hoisting.

Hartal was observed throughout the Sub-division on many occasions, specially on the arrest of Mahatmaji and other leaders, the arrest of local leaders, the firing at Danipur, the firing incidents at various places on 29. 9. 42, celebration of Independence day, and National Week. National Flag Hoisting Ceremony was observed on numerous occasions with all the solemnity that the occasion demanded.

Students Agitated

The Students of the Sub-division went on strike and organised meetings and processions. The students of Tamluk Hamilton H. E. School took the lead in this matter. Many schools had been closed for an indefinite period. About 500 students and teachers of High Schools of the Subdivision had joined the Revolution. Many school buildings had

been requisitioned for military purposes and kept in military occupation for a long period.

NEW POSTAL SYSTEM

Keeping Up Communication Throughout District

Realising the evils of the censor and apprehending the break-down of the Governmental Postal System in the event of a clash with Congress, we had our own postal system, having branches all over the Sub-division, and maintaining connection with other Sub-divisions and the Provincial Congress office.

“Biplabi” Bulletin

The Sub-division had regular issues of a cyclostyled bulletin named, “Biplabi” (Revolutionary.) Sutahata, Mahishadal and Nandigram thanas also had occasional issues of their own bulletins.

Congress Camps

We had our camps from before the commencement of the fight. When the fight started, the number of camps and volunteers went on increasing. Government forces burnt and destroyed the camps and oppressed the people of the villages where the camps stood. Undaunted, the workers with the co-operation of the villagers built new structures

in the very same villages or in the neighbouring area. Several camps had been repeatedly destroyed by Government forces and repeatedly rebuilt by the people. When the cyclone swept over the Sub-division, the homeless villagers first saw to it that the camps were rebuilt.

Many prohibitory orders were enforced in the Sub-division, but all these except the Curfew order to Tamluk town, were repeatedly disobeyed on a wide scale.

Government Offices Boycotted

People were asked to boycott all Government offices. The Law courts were for the most part empty, and had little work to do. The Registration offices also were boycotted.

The Midnapore District Board and the Local Boards of the district had been specially subjected to Government wrath, because these had been successfully captured and made the best use of by the Congress candidates. In 1930, with the start of C. D. movement these bodies had been superseded Practically till 1940. These bodies continued to be controlled by officials and non-representative elements. In the 1940 election again the Congress candidates got returned to these bodies. On 8-11-42 the Sub-divisional Local Board was superseded.

Many Union Boards also were under Congress control. When our fight started, the members stopped collecting Union rates and cut off all connections with the circle officers. The uniforms of chowkidars and dafadars were collected and burnt. The Union Boards which did not co-operate were occupied by Congress people and the papers destroyed. Three Union Boards were superseded on charges of joining the Freedom movement.

Appeals were made to the people to stop payment of taxes and rents.

FIGHT DEEPENS

Plan For Simultaneous Attacks On Govt. Offices

People were growing impatient and wanted to capture the seats of Government. It was decided in a meeting of the workers that on the 29th September, 1942, there would be simultaneous attacks on the Police stations, courts and other Government Centres. The details were decided at a meeting of Sub-divisional workers five days before the fixed date. About one lakh of persons, both Hindus and Mahomedans participated in this fight. For special reasons the Panskura and Moyna thana could not be raided.

On the night of the 28th September big trees were felled to block the important roads of Tamluk to Panskura, Tamluk to Mahishadal, Tamluk to Narghat, Kukrahati to Balughata and other roads. Thirty culverts were broken and twenty big holes were dug on the road. Twenty seven miles of telegraph and telephone lines were cut off and 194 telegraph posts were broken. The ferry boats of Cossye and Hooghly rivers were sunk. However, the news leaked and the Government came to know the thing the same night. With forced labour of neighbouring villagers who were made to work at the point of the bayonet. Tamluk-Panskura Road was partially cleared and made suitable for motor car by 2 p.m. on 29th September. Other roads took 10/12 days to repair. The ferry service could not be restored within 15 days. Three Police stations of the Tamluk Sub-division were simultaneously attacked on the same date. Nandigram Police Station was attacked on the next day. All the killed and wounded received bullets on the front parts of the bodies. All Government centres, especially the Police Stations were, the main objective. On this date and during the next seven days, the following were burnt and destroyed :—one police station, two police outposts, two Sub-Registrars offices, thirteen post offices, nine Union Board

offices with their papers, ten Panchyet offices with their papers, twelve liquor shops and four Dak Bungalows, and thirteen offices of the Mahishadal Raj Estate. Chowkidari uniforms of 350 Chowkidars of the sub-division were collected and burnt. Thirteen Government officers including police officers were arrested by the revolutionaries. On their giving promise of resigning from Government services they were given their fare and let off. None of them was maltreated in any way. Six rifles and some swords were seized by the revolutionaries.

Details of the attacks are given below :—

TAMLUK INCIDENTS

Revolutionaries Rush On In Face Of Bullets

At 3 p.m. as previously settled, five big processions approached the town from different directions. The processions consisted of Hindus and Mahomedans, and there was a large proportion of women in each procession. The town full of soldiers, both white and black, seemed like a well-guarded fort. All the roads leading to the town were guarded strongly by sepoys with lathis behind whom stood rows of soldiers with rifles. The processionists were all along peaceful and non-violent.

From the west, came a big procession, consisting of about 8 thousand revolutionaries. As they

approached the police station, the sepoys under the command of Sj. Manindra Nath Banerjee, police officer, made a strong lathi charge. But this could not deter the processionists who advanced ignorning the lathis. The police officer ordered firing. At once indiscriminate firing started. Five revolutionaries fell hit by bullets. The gathering could not stand the rain of bullets and it dispersed. The number of people wounded could not be ascertained. A few revolutionaries, however, ignored the bullets and rushed to the thana. The soldiers with their rifles at once ran into the thana building and went on firing from there. One of the brave revolutionaries was bit and killed instantaneously. The rest had to withdraw. The wounded were attended to by their comrades, and many were taken to the Ramkrishna Sevasram, but the soldiers snatched away one of them, named Sj. Ram Chandra Bera, and dragged him by his legs across the road. He was bleeding profusely from his wounds. He was left in front of the thana premises. When Ram Chandra regained consciousness, he forgot his wounds and somehow managed to drag his bullet-riddled body upto the outer door of the thana. His face lit up with the joy of victory. He cried out "Here I am, the thana is captured". With these words on his lips, he breathed his last.

Bravery of Women

From the north, entered another procession under the leadership of the veteran Congress worker of the Sub-division, Sm. Matangini Hazra, aged 73. They encountered the soldiers under the command of Sj. Anil Kumar Bhattacharjee. They had to withdraw to some distance on being attacked by the soldiers at the narrow entrance by the side of the "Ban Pukur." Then one boy, named, Lakshmi Narayan Das, ran into the rank of the soldiers and seized a gun. He was mercilessly beaten by the soldiers. Then our soldiers of freedom led by Sm. Matangini Hazra again encountered the Government troop, who opened fire and continued showering bullets for a long time. Sm. Matangini held the National Flag firmly and advanced. The Government troop first hit her on both hands. Her hands dropped, but not the National Flag, which she still held tightly and advanced, requesting the Indian troop to cease firing and to give up the jobs and join the Freedom movement. She received a reply,—a bullet which ran right through her forehead and she fell dead. As she lay there in the dust, sanctified by her blood, the National Flag was still in her grip, yet flying unsullied. A Government soldier ran and kicked the flag into

submission to the ground. A few steps behind her lay scattered the déad bodies of Lakshmi Narayan Das (13), Purimadhab Pramanick (14), Nagendra Nath Samanta and Jiban Chandra Bera. Lots of people were wounded. Some of the wounded were carried by their comrades to the Government Hospital for treatment. Here also the soldiers prevented the people from giving first-aid to the wounded. A woman was attending a wounded revolutionary who was crying for water. The woman went to the neighbouring tank, dipped the end of her 'saree' into water and thus brought water for the wounded. A soldier aimed his gun at her and asked her to stop giving water. The woman cried out, "You may kill me, I am not going to yield to your threat." The soldier did not dare shoot her.

From the south came another batch of prossessionists. As soon as they reached the Sankararah Bridge, the Government soldiers went on showering bullets, killing Niranjan Jana (17) immediately and seriously wounding Purna Chandra Maiti (22) who died two days later at the hospital. A large number of revolutionaries were wounded. Women processionists gave water to the wounded. Some soldiers chased these nursing women. The brave wómen soon returned with a "banthi" (vegetable

cutter) and a bucket of water, shouting "If you prevent us from attending the wounded, we will cut you with this "banthi." The women were no more interfered with. Some seriously injured persons were carried to the town hospital by the processionists themselves. Many were carried home.

Arrested Men Beaten

From the south-western direction, a procession consisting of 3000 persons entered the town by the wooden bridge. Sj. Apurba Ghosh who was a leader of the Military Group there, called out to the processionists, "Those of you who can face bullets and sure death should come out." Congress revolutionaries who were leading the procession—a woman was one of them—advanced with firm determination. They were cleverly arrested and then a lathi charge was made on the procession. The arrested revolutionaries were given a severe beating and then they were let off excepting seven, including one woman. They were later sentenced to two years' R. I. each.

From the west, a procession of about one thousand people approached the thana. They were subjected to a severe lathi charge and made to disperse.

In this manner, about 20,000 people, all unarmed and non-violent, braved the hordes of Government forces. Even when they had to withdraw before the continuous shower of bullets, about 10,000 of them waited patiently till late at night for opportunity to renew their attack. But, as Government forces continuously poured into the town, which was very carefully guarded the people gradually withdrew.

The relatives of the killed approached the Government authorities for having the dead bodies but they were insulted and driven away.

On the day of shooting and the next few days, complete hartal was observed in the town and throughout the sub-division. For several days afterwards, the town was completely boycotted by sellers of vegetables, fish, and milk etc. The Government soldiers ran their millitary lorries along Tamluk-Panskura Road and other roads and seized for themselves goats, hens, vegetables and any other food articles they could get.

AT MAHISHADAL

Indiscriminate Firing On Unarmed People

On 29. 9. 42. different unions organised processions. A procession of about 5 thousand people was advancing towards the thana from the eastern

side. The O. C. of Mahishadal P. S. confronted them with a peon known as "G. Sahib", who was the body guard of Mahisadal Raj. "G Sahib" opened fire and shot at random killing two and wounding about 18 persons. The procession withdrew to a distance.

Another procession started from the Thana Congress Office at Sundra under the guidance of "Vidyut Bahini". A third procession from the western side joined it. And the combined procession consisting of about 25 thousand people advanced towards the thana. The notorious "G. Sahib," armed constables and other police officers of the thana continued indiscriminate firing. The gathering withdrew to a distance and again advanced. Again there was heavy firing. There were four repeated attacks on the thana. The residence of the Second Officer (Daroga) was set fire to. The Thana Office stands on the eastern side of the famous Hijli Canal. The police firing was indiscriminate. They fired in all directions. Two persons were killed.

Women's Courage

On the western side of the canal, one person was found killed at a distance of 150 yds. near the fish market. Twelve persons were killed on this day and a large number injured. They included many

sight-seers. "G. Sahib" was conspicuous in this manslaughter. He was found to run into Mahisadal Raja's house and bring fresh supplies of cartidges.

The women processionists particularly showed cool courage in attending the wounded in brave defiance of the indiscriminate shower of bullets around them. Stretcher-bearers with the sign of Red Cross carried the wounded to Congress Hospitals. The Government force, however never for a moment stopped firing even at the stretcher-bearers, of female nurses. Out of the wounded 43 received serious injuries. Two of the seriously injured, Subhas Chandra Samanta and Khudiram Bera were captured. Khudiram succumbed later on. Subhas was sent up for trial a long time afterwards along with fifty other persons. After being harassed in a long-drawn trial, they were all acquitted by the Sessions Court.

VICTORY AT SUTAHATA

Government Office Buildings Occupied

As pre-arranged, on 29-9-42, big processions consisting of about 40,000 people, approached the Thana from east and west. In front of the processions, were "Vidyut Bahini" members in uniform and also members of the "Bhagini Sena Sibir" (Sisters' Army Corps). The O.C., of the Sutahata

P. S. ordered the processionists to disperse, but the people arrested him and ran into the Thana house and before the police had any opportunity to open fire, disarmed and arrested them. Six rifles with some cartridges, and two swords were seized. The pucca building of the thana was then set fire to and everything inside the thana was thrown into the fire. Two aeroplanes at this time flew at a low height over the gathering and dropped at least one bomb, which however fell into a neighbouring tank and did not cause any damage. (Police version of the bomb incident as related before the Session Court referred to dropping of something like liquid fire from the aeroplanes).

The victorious revolutionaries then spread to the different parts of the thana and burnt the Khasmahal office, Sub-register's office, Union Board Office etc.

The Government people who were arrested were all well-treated. They were given their fare for going to their respective homes and allowed to go away.

Nandigram

On 30-9-42, about 10,000 revolutionaries attacked the Nandigram Police Station. They were fired upon by a band of armed constables in a narrow entrance. Four persons were killed on the spot and

one succumbed later on at the Tamluk Government Hospital. Sixteen persons were wounded. The revolutionaries were found to withdraw. They burnt and destroyed the opium and hemp shop, the debt Settlement Office, the Katchari house of the Mahishadal Raj at Reapara and the Post office there.

THE AFTERMATH

Soldiers' Raid on Villages : Houses Burnt and Looted

Hundreds of soldiers white and black, were brought from outside and several military camps were established. From these Camps soldiers would come out and make raids on villages, burning and looting houses, and oppressing villagers, men, women and children, in a manner which surpassed the much talked of Nazi methods. The Government forces were however so nervous and afraid of possible counter-attacks by the villagers, that they would not come out of the camps except in strong batches and would always return after finishing their raids before night fall.

The Congress workers were making preparations for keeping law and order and establishing a National Government in the villages, when the cyclone swept over the district and made their task enormously more difficult.

CYCLONE IN THE WAKE OF REVOLUTION

Revolutionary Activities Stopped for Relief Work.

The terrible cyclone of the 16th October, 1942, wrought indescribable havoc on the entire Sub-division. According to local estimate about 10,000 people and 75 per cent of the cattle died. According to the estimate of the S. D. O., Tamluk, 3,837 people died. 1,072 people received injuries. 68,193 heads of cattle perished and 1,10,346 houses totally collapsed and 76,958 houses were partially damaged.

Two steamers several launches and a large number of boats capsized. Almost all local board and district board roads were damaged, some beyond repair, 110 miles of river embankment were swept away 50% of the crops of 21,511.49 acres of land were destroyed. (Vide—Redort on the Cyclone and tidal bore of Octocer 1942—Volume 1. Memo No. 6363R, dated 30th September, 1943).

Government Apathy

The S. D. O. of Tamluk, received three telegrams from Calcutta giving him a forecast of the cyclone. He did nothing to circulate the news, and to warn the public against the coming cyclone. He also did not agree, even when approached with a request,

to suspend the curfew order for a short period in that terrible night of the cyclone. Boats were not allowed to be freely used in the denial areas for saving the lives of persons who somehow escaped their doom by sitting on a tree or the house top at the time of tidal bore. Not only was no relief given for weeks, but no non-official relief organisation was allowed to come and operate here for about a month, during which period, villagers died by hundreds for want of effective relief. A worker of the Marwari Relief Society came to ascertain the need of relief, but he was arrested and his stock of rice and other things brought for the purpose of relief taken away by officials.

The District Officer reported that in view of the political misdeeds of the 'rebels' of Midnapore the district must be made to suffer. Dr. S. P. Mukherjee's remarks on this point are revealing. "The district officer failed to rise equal to the occasion, and his previous prejudice against the people who were called rebels, prevented him from doing what any responsible officer was bound to do to mitigate the sufferings of the people. His frame of mind was known to us when he sent his report recommending in view of the political misdeeds of the people not only should Government withhold relief, but it should not permit any non-official

organisation to conduct relief in the affected area" (Statement of Dr. Mookerjee in Bengal Legislative Assembly on 12th February, 1943).

The press was gagged and no news was allowed to be published in respect of Midnapore disaster. Seventeen days after the incident, a brief press note gave an over-simplified version of the disaster. Dr. S. P. Mookerjee came on enquiry as the Minister of Government of Bengal. Those who arranged his reception and told him of the local distress were made special constables and made to attend the thana regularly. Looting and burning of the remaining few houses went on even after the cyclone. Dr. Mukerjee himself saw the burning of houses when he visited the sub-division for enquiry.

Congress in Relief Work

Workers at once stopped revolutionary activities and took up relief work—cremation of dead bodies, giving first aid to the injured, clearing the roads and tanks, and arranging supply of food and medicines. The dead bodies of cattle were thrown into the river and some were buried under ground. People were advised to use boiled water for drinking purposes. Sixty miles embankment was repaired. The surplus paddy of the well-to-do was distributed among the needy villagers. Paddy and rice were

brought from outside and distributed on credit and on dole system.

Government Relief

At long last, under the pressure of public opinion, a few Government relief centres were organised. These centres run by the unsympathetic Government servants failed naturally to serve the interests of the people. One notable feature about these organisations, was that the notorious people who supported the Government in their campaign of barbarous repression got liberal aid.

PARALELL GOVERNMENT

Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar Inaugurated

The Congress workers made up their mind to take a bold and effective stand against the systematic Government oppression, and set up the Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar. It was intended to be incorporated into the body of the Great Indian Federation when the latter would be formed.

On account of the exceptional circumstances of those days elections could not be held but a Sarbadhinayaka (Director) was appointed by the Congress Committee. The Sarbadhinayaka was to act freely within the limits set by the Congress Committee. General lines of action would be indi-

cated by the Committee which the Sarbadhinayaka was to follow. The Sarbadhinayaka was empowered to appoint, subject to the approval of the sub-divisional Congress Committee, Ministers to take charge of different departments. The Sarbadhinayaka himself was the War Minister. Other important departments were law and order, health, education, administration of justice, agriculture and propaganda each in charge of one Minister.

Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar was set up on 17-12-42. and on 26-1-43, in each of the thanas of Sutahata, Nandigram, Mahishadal and Tamluk, a Thana Jatiya Sarkar was set up subject to the control and supervision by the Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar.

Vidyut-Bahini

The Vidyut-Bahini was first formed at Mahishadal ; later Tamluk and Nandigram Thanas also organised their own Vidyut-Bahinis. In each Vidyut-Bahini, there was one G. O. C. and one commandant. It had the following divisions—

- (1) Fighting Branch,
- (2) Intelligence Branch and
- (3) Ambulance.

There were well-trained doctors, compounders, sttreacher-bearers and nurses. The Government publication, "Some Facts About The Disturbances

in India—'42-'43" pays a tribute to the organisation thus :—"In Midnapore in Bengal the operations of the rebels indicated considerable care and planning ; effective warning system had been devised, elementary tactical principles were observed, for instance, encirclement and flanking movements clearly on pre-arranged signals. The forces of disorder were accompanied by doctors and nursing orderlies to attend the casualties and the intelligence system was efficient".

The Vidyut-Bahini was recognised as the National Army by the Jatiya Sarkar. The following branches were later on opened : (1) Guerilla Detachment (2) Sisters' Army (3) Law and Order. This last named department did noteworthy work in arresting notorious dacoits and thieves who had been let loose to create disorder. These dacoits and thieves were produced before the Court of the Jatiya Sarkar and dealt with according to law.

Sj. Satish Chandra Samanta a veteran leader of the Sub-division, was the first Sarbadhinayaka of Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar. Under his able leadership the Jatiya Sarkar gained wide popularity which it enjoyed undiminished till and after the day of its voluntary dissolution. The successive Sarbadhinayakas were Sj. Ajoy Kumar Mukherjee, Sj. Satish

Chandra Sahoo and Sj. Barada Kanta Kuiti, all veteran leaders of the sub-division.

Jatiya Sarkar Dissolved

Mahatmaji's statements published in the newspaper of the 29th July and 6th August, 1944, gave the sub-divisional workers a new light. The fourth Sarbadhinayaka, Sj. Barada Kanta Kuiti, ordered on the 8th August, 1944 that the Jatiya Sarkar should be dissolved. He was arrested next day. Sj. Sushil Kumar Dhara, Secretary of the Congress Committee, by a statement announced the cessation of activities of Jatiya Sarkar from 1st September, 1944. Vidyut-Bahini was also dissolved. Within 29th September, 1944, 150 workers surrendered to the Government in obedience to the order of Mahatmaji. The Thana Jatiya sarkar organisation also stood dissolved.

MAINTAINING ORDER

How Jatiya Sarkar Functioned

A short description of the working of the different department of the Jatiya Sarkar is given below :—

(A) Department of Justice

This was the most popular department of the Jatiya Sarkar. Each thana Jatiya Sarkar had a department of Justice in charge of a Minister of

Justice. The fee for filing a case was Re. 1/- later increased to Rs. 2/-. In additional fee of Rs. 2/- was charged from January 1, 1944 for emergency cases. Both civil and criminal cases were adjudicated. Against the order and judgment of the Thana Jatiya Sarkar Court, an appeal lay to the Sub-divisional court of Jatiya Sarkar. Against the order and judgment of this latter court, an appeal lay to a Special Tribunal consisting of three judges.

The court used to move and sit in different places to suit the convenience of the public. The public were allowed to be present at the time of the sitting of the court. Sometimes as many as 200 to 300 persons would be present. Many long-standing cases of the Sub-divisional and District courts and the High Court were adjudicated successfully by the Jatiya Sarkar Courts. Sometimes, lawyers and mukteers were present. They always expressed their satisfaction at the working of the Courts. In criminal cases, the accused who were found guilty were given different punishments according to the nature of the offence. Warning, fine, detention till the rising of the court, whipping etc. had been resorted to, in order to meet the ends of justice. Property of absconders was sometimes attached and in some cases, sold in public auction.

In execution of decree, property was in some cases attached. But attachment and sale were allowed only in a few rare cases, for instance, where persuasion failed. The prestige of the Jatiya Sarkar was, however, so high as to bring about settlement through its courts in most cases and get a ready obedience to its decisions. In Sutahata Jatiya Sarkar Court, 836 cases were filed, in Nandigram 222 cases, in Mahishadal 1055 cases, and in Tamluk, 794 cases. A total of 2,907 cases were instituted. Out of these, 1,681 cases were adjudicated. A few cases came up for decision before the Sub-divisional court, and a few before the Tribunal. Before dissolution of Jatiya Sarkar, the depositors of fees of pending cases were given back their money. So high was the Jatiya Sarkar's prestige that many people were reluctant to take back their fees and wanted that the Jatiya Sarkar Court should try their cases when it might be revived.

(B) War Department

It was of course mainly concerned with resistance movement for checking the offensive measures of the Government. As however the distress caused by the cyclone and famine became acute, aggravated by a deliberate policy of bungling and mismanagement by the authorities, the War Department paid greater attention to relief work.

(C) & (D) Health and Public Safety

These departments tried their utmost to combat famine and pestilence. Clothings, paddy, rice and money were collected at different places and distributed among the needy. The rich hoarders and profiteers were served with notices by the Jatiya Sarkar to stop exploitation and they were made to pay fair sums of money and paddy which were distributed among the distressed people. In the acute days of famine, the members of the army camps of Jatiya Sarkar first subsisted on one meal of boiled gram and one meal of rice, and then for nine continuous months, they lived on one meal of 3 chataks of rice and another meal of $\frac{1}{2}$ Poa of boiled or fried gram. Medicines of many varieties were distributed. In all Rs. 79,000/- worth of clothings, medicines, paddy and rice were distributed.

(E) Law and Order

This department with the help of the Intelligence Branch maintained peace in the Sub-division. This department was responsible for arresting and getting punished a good number of thieves and dacoits. Notorious dacoits had been released and encouraged to commit all sorts of offences and on many occasions, the Police Station refused to give any aid to persons suffering from depredations of

these people. On Jatiya Sarkar taking up firm steps to prevent the crimes, these crimes stopped and very few cases of thefts and dacoities were reported, which received prompt attention from the Jatiya Sarkar. The Jatiya Sarkar's remedy was speedy, effective, inexpensive and to the entire satisfaction of all sections of people.

(F) Education Department

Many schools received regular grants in aid. Schools were regularly inspected by competent inspectors.

There were also Propaganda Department and Finance Department each in charge of a Minister.

DETAILS OF OPPRESSION

Firing and Lathi Charge : Offences Against Women

The police fired at Mahishadal 9 times at 6 places, at Tamluk 4 times at 4 places, at Nandigram 4 times at 4 places and at Sutahata 2 times at 2 places. The number killed in the above named thanas is 16, 12, 14, and 2, respectively, the total killed being 44. The number of wounded in the thanas being 52, 15, 24, and 6 respectively. It was not possible, however, to ascertain the exact number of injured persons. Among the killed was one lady, a 73 years old woman worker.

The killed included 6 boys between 12 years and 16 years of age. There were numerous occasions on which lathi charges were made on processions and meetings. But mere lathi charges everywhere proved insufficient to crush the spirit of the people who admirably remained calm in spite of the gravest provocations. The persons injured, whether by lathi charge or by firing were not given proper aid by the police authorities if they happened to be captured. Many injured persons died in Government hospitals for want of proper attention.

Molestation of Women

Certain men under the employ of the British Government committed rape on 74 women of this Subdivision. One of the victims was pregnant for some months at the time. One woman victim died as a result of assault.

Innumerable attempts to commit rape were made. In some cases, the women managed to escape and save themselves. In most cases, the women used to stay in batches and offer united resistance to the attempts of the brutes to molest them. This step proved effective. In many cases the women were given daggers for their protection. The mere show of the sharp and shining daggers was in most cases enough to put the beasts to their flight.

On January 9, 1943, 600 soldiers surrounded three villages namely Masuria, Dihia Masuria and Chandipur in Mahishadal thana. They raided the houses. Not content with plundering and pillaging the villagers, they committed criminal assault on 46 women in the course of one single day. Mr. B. R. Sen I.C.S. seemed to have come on enquiry. But nothing is known to have come out of it.

The statements of some of the unfortunate victims are given below. . .

Minor assaults on women were numerous. Soldiers in many cases took away the ornaments from the persons of women. In some cases, in their attempt to snatch away the ear-rings, the soldiers tore off the eartips of women. In some cases, women, including old ladies and young girls, were whipped.

Even small children were equally tortured particularly when the troops were disappointed in their attempt to arrest anybody after their raids on houses, they used to cruelly beat the little children whom they could catch hold of.

Even Animals Not Spared

Even mute animals suffered from the wrath of military men and police forces. On 30. 10. 42, the police and military troops set on fire the house of

Dr. Janardan Hazra, the veteran Congress leader of Sutahata. The inmates of the house wanted to take out the domestic animals to save them from fire. They were driven away. The entire house was burnt to ashes along with five cows, five goats, one hen and one cat, which were burnt alive.

TORTURES ON MEN

Inhuman, Filthy and Obscene

Men were tortured in various ways. Hundreds of villagers had been made to walk long distances, kept without food and then released. In chilly winter nights, men had been dipped in the cold water of tanks. In some cases, men had been naked and buckets of cold water poured on their bodies. Numerous men had been cruelly beaten. Many men were beaten till they fell senseless. Monmatha Naskar (Vill. Ramnagar, P. S. Sutahata) and Sudhir Das (Vill. Hatiberia P. S. Sutahata) had been so severely beaten that blood came out of the urinary channel.

A European Police Officer (S. D. P. O.) devised a new mode of torture. Besides cruelly beating men till they fell down senseless, he used to insert a wooden rule inside the rectum and turned it round to cause insufferable pain in the immense glee of that man. A few statements of such sufferers are given below. On 27-3-44 Sj. Chunilal Bera (Vill. Hatiberia, P. S.

Sutahata) was arrested while offering Satyagraha. One I. B. officer first beat him severely and then applied a mixture of soda and lime on the penis of the gentleman. He could not stand the torture and signed a bond to get his release. He had to be medically treated.

Arrests

About two thousand people were arrested in this Sub-division. Many of them were acquitted after prolonged detention in hajat, sometimes the detention extending to one year. Many had been arrested and convicted on false charges.

Conviction

An accurate record of persons convicted is not available. About 500 persons had been convicted and sentenced to different terms of imprisonment, the highest term of imprisonment, being $7\frac{1}{2}$ years. Women and children were sentenced in some cases to $4\frac{1}{2}$ years of rigorous imprisonment.

Detention Without Trial

Several persons of this Sub-division were detained without trial. They included the President of the District Congress Committee, the Chairman of Tamluk Local Board, a veteran member of the Tamluk Bar, President of Union Board No. 4 of

Sutahata village, Secretary of Sutahata **Thana** Congress Committee and the **Secretary of** Mahishadal Thana Congress Committee.

Special Police Officer

Many persons were wilfully harassed by serving orders on them for being special police officers. They were ordered to attend the police station sometimes once, sometimes twice or thrice a week. Many defied the orders and courted imprisonment.

HUGE LOSS OF PROPERTY

Houses Burnt, Dismantled and Looted

125 houses were burnt in this Sub-division resulting in a loss of Rs. 1,39,000. The camps of the National soldiers, Khadi centres and school buildings were burnt. In some cases petrol and kerosene oil were used to burn the houses.

Houses Dismantled

49 houses had been dismantled with a consequent loss of Rs. 8,075. Houses were destroyed even after the cyclone.

Looting

1,044 houses had been looted resulting in a loss of Rs. 2,12,795. The Government forces used to enter the houses on the plea of carrying on searches,

and then plundered them. Gold and silver ornaments, valuable beddings, utensils, cash, suit-cases etc. were looted.

Occupation of Houses

23 houses had been occupied forcibly by the Government forces. These included High English and M. E. Schools, and training school of teachers.

House Searches

5,730 houses had been searched. The searching party consisted of 15 to 80 armed soldiers, accompanied by a large number of notorious characters. No warrant was shown to the owners of the houses.

Attachment

On the pretext that some one was absconding, attachment of his property was made. Many of the valuable articles taken away were not entered in the list and found their way into the pockets of miscreants. Innocent people were made to sign the attachment list out of fear.

Total Loss

The total loss of the Sub-division in terms of money is about Rs, 10,00,000. It has resulted from the Government policy of taking away buses, boats, bi-cycles, attachment and sale of property at

nominal price, destruction of property by burning and looting houses. The oppressive measures have reduced many people to utter destitution.

Collective Fine

Collective fine to the extent of Rs. 1,90,000 was imposed on the Sub-division —Rs. 50,000 on the 11 Unions of the Sutahata thana, Rs. 50,000 on Nandigram thana except Unions Nos. 5, 8, 14 ; Rs. 50,000 on Mahishadal thana except Unions Nos. 1, 2, and 3, Rs. 25,000 on Tamluk thana except Unions Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 11 and 12 ; Rs. 15,000 on Panskura thana in three Unions Nos. 16, 17 and 13.

Hindu Scripture Torn

Hindus had been specially maltreated by committing offences against their religion. Hindu scriptures had been torn and sometimes trampled under foot, images stolen with ornaments and temples defiled.

Illegal Associations

The following associations of the Sub-division had been declared illegal.

- (1) Tamluk Sub-divisional Congress Committee.
- (2) Tamluk Thana Congress Committee.
- (3) Basudevpur Congress Office.
- (4) Friends' Club.

- (5) Vidyut-Bahini.
- (6) Sutahata Congress Volunteers Corps.
- (7) Mahishadal Congress Volunteers Corps.
- (8) Khodambari Thana Congress Camp.
- (9) Terapekhia Bazar Congress Camp.
- (10) Kacktia Bazar Congress Camp.
- (11) Chandipur Congress Camp.
- (12) Keshapat Congress Office.
- (13) Kolaghat Congress Office.
- (14) Moyna Thana Congress Committee.
- (15) Sreerampur Volunteer Corps.
- (16) Garam Dal.
- (17) Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar.

By a notification, dated, 5th November, 1942 the Government declared the Midnapore Congress Committee and all its branches or associations organised by the Congress illegal.

Confiscation of Guns

After the revolutionary attack on 29-9-42, all the guns in the Sub-division were collected. Only the loyalists got back their guns, many did not get them back.

Conclusion

The Government have until now attempted to whitewash the misdeeds of their agents. The

Press Note of December 6, 1942, some extracts from which are given below is an instance of this endeavour.

On 15-2-43, an adjournment motion was brought in the Bengal Legislative Assembly to censure the Government on Midnapore affairs. In reply, the Prime Minister Mr. Fazlul Huq said that Midnapore had a parallel Government, with its military and police forces and intelligence branch ; it had its jails where people were imprisoned ; and in some cases, the people had actually paralysed the Government. The reply of course contained a tribute to the Midnapore people, but it only side-tracked the main issue.

Tamluk has done her bit in the struggle for freedom. The facts stated are all authentic and we take the entire responsibility for the statement made and the facts recorded. The public demand an impartial enquiry into the allegations and punishment of the persons guilty of the offences mentioned herein.

HARROWING TALES

TAMLUK—MIDNAPUR

Statements of Women Assaulted Criminally

(a) "I, Sm. Sindhulala Maity, wife of Adhar Chandra Maity, village Chandipur, P.S. Mahishadal—am aged 19 years. I have got a child. On 9-1-43 last, about 9-30 A.M., a Police Officer—Nalini Raha, came to our house with a band of armed troops. They caught my husband and took him away, and forcibly committed criminal assault on me. I became senseless.....This is the second time I have been criminally assaulted."

(This woman had been assaulted on 27-10-42. After the second assault she died suffering from serious female diseases).

Pregnant Woman Raped

(b) "I, Sm. Khudibala Pandit, wife of Haripada Pandit, Vill. Chandipur, P.S. Mahishadal—am aged 21. I am the mother of three children. On 9-11-43, at about 9 A.M., a Police Officer—Nalini Raha, came to our house with some troops. My husband was arrested and taken away. The Police entered our house at his instance, two soldiers tied my mouth with a piece of cloth and threatened me that if I shouted I would be shot. Then the two soldiers forcibly committed rape on me successively. I became unconscious. On regaining consciousness, I found that my husband had returned with bleeding injuries."

(This woman was pregnant at the time of the criminal assault.)

Soldiers Commit Rape

(c) "I, Sm. Subasini Das, wife of Manmatha Nath Das. Vill. Chandipur, P. S. Mahishadal....am childless. I am aged

20. On 9-1-43, a Police Officer—Nalini Raha, came to our house with a band of troops. They caught my husband and sent him away. At the instance of Nalini Raha two soldiers tied my mouth with a piece of cloth and threatened me that they would shoot me if I cried. Thus the two soldiers forcibly committed rape on me.....I became senseless out of a sense of shame and contempt.....I expect you will vindicate my honour."

(This woman received her normal diet only three days ago after suffering from Cholera.)

Victim Unconscious

(d) "I, Sm. Basantabala Maparu, wife of Girish Chandra Maparu, Vill. Dihi-Masuria, P. S. Mahishadal....am aged 25. I am the mother of one child. On 9-1-43 the O.C. (Bara Daraga of Mahishadal) appeared with a band of soldiers. They caught my husband and sent him to a distance. At the instance of the O.C. three soldiers entered our house and approached me. They caught me and tied my mouth with a piece of cloth. The three soldiers forcibly committed rape on me. I became senseless.....On regaining consciousness I felt a bitter sense of shame and again fell unconscious."

(e) "I, Sm. Snehabala Beoa, widow of late Sushil Mukhopadhyha, Vill. Chandipur, P.S. Mahishadal, am aged 28. I have four sons. On 9-1-43 a Police Officer—Nalini Raha, came to my house with some soldiers. Some of them caught my eldest son and sent him away. At the instance of Nalini Raha the soldiers caught me inside my room. The soldiers tied a piece of cloth round my face and forcibly committed rape on me successively. I became unconscious. On regaining consciousness, I found my son had returned with bleeding injuries."

Assaulted & Raped

(f) "I Sm. Raimani Paria, wife of Bhurban Paria, Vill. Masuria, P.S. Mahishadal.....am aged 30. I have one son. On 9-1-43 at about 11-30 A.M., a Police Officer—Nalini Raha, came to my house with some soldiers. They caught my husband. I was running away towards a nearby bamboo bush. Two soldiers caught me and carried me to my house. As I was crying, they tied a piece of cloth round my face and striking me with the butt-end of a gun, felled me on the ground and forcibly committed rape on me one after another."

Horrible Tortures

(a) "I went to offer Satyagraha at Balughata bazar. I was arrested by the police and taken to Sutahata thanaAfter evening, the Sepoys threw me on the ground and took away my cloth and made me completely nude.....They basted a mixture of soda and lime on my penis.....I could not stand the pains. I had to sign a bond and I got released.....I had to be treated medically for a long time. I suffered for many days."

(Sd/-) Chhabilal Bera.

Vill. Hatiberia.

Union No. 11, Sutahata P.S.

Dated, 1st April, 44.

(b) "I, Satish Chandra Maity was arrested with other seven Satyagrahis while offering Satyagraha at Balughata Bazar. We were taken to the Mahishadal thana. There a police officer took me inside a room and beat me severely. Then, a high police officer took me to Tamluk. The 'Sahib' made me naked in a room and commenced whipping me incessantly. My buttocks received bleeding injuries

.....Then he began pricking pins into my finger below my nails. Afterwards, he began putting pressure on my legs with wooden legs." Not satisfied with this, he made me lie on my back and pressed on my chest with his legs with boots on. I began vomiting blood. Blood also came out of my ears.....After some interval, I was urged to sign a bond. On my refusal I was again severely assulted. The whole day I was not given any food. I was then sent to Sutahata thana where again I was urged to sign a bond. I refused and I was again beaten.....I felt severe pains in my chest. I felt great breathing difficulties."

(Sd/-) Satish Ch. Maity.

Vill. Machlandapur. Union No. 8, Mahishadal P.S.

Dated 19th May, 44.

(c) "On 13-4-44. I went to offer Satyagraha at Ramtarakhat in Union No. 4 of Tamluk thana. At about 7 A.M., the police Officer—Hem Ch. Bagchi, arrested us and took inside a hut. There they tortured us in various ways.....At 5 in the afternoon we were taken to Tamluk.....A police officer—S. D. P. O. took me inside a room where he stripped me of my cloth and severely beat me. After some cruel beating, he made me stand with my legs apart and inserted his finger into my rectum and began to move it to and fro. This caused me severe pain. After ten or twelve minutes of cruel tortures, he stopped.....For the next 26 hours I was not given any food. Then, I was given some rice only once in 24 hours.

(Sd/-) Kshudiram Kuila.

Vill. Birinchibasan, Mahishadal. P.S.

Dated, 18th May, 44

FACTS THAT SPEAK

TAMLUK SUBDIVISION

(1) Death from firing—40. (2) Wounded in firing—199. (3) Injured—142. (4) Rape on women—73. (5) Attempt to rape—31. (6) Molestation on women folk—150. (7) House burnt—117. (8) Estimated loss by burning of houses—Rs. 1,39,500. (9) Arrest—1,868. (10) Illegal detention—5,076. (11) Assualted by lathis—4,226. (12) Detention under D. I. Rules (129)—12. (13) Special police officer (appointment)—401. (14) House looted—1,044. (15) Loss by looting—Rs. 2,12,795. (16) Houses searched—13,730. (17) Occupation of houses—27. (18) Attachment of properties—59 family. (19) Loss due to attachment—Rs. 25,365. (20) Collective fine imposed in 5 Unions for—Rs. 1,90,000. (21) Organisations declared illegal—17. (22) Bombing—one time at Sutahata. Approximate total loss of property about Rs. 10,00,000.

KILLED BY BULLETS

(a) DANIPUR—MAHISHADAL P.S.

(Dead—3, Date of occurence 8-9-42)

Serial No.	Name	Age	Village
1.	Shashibhusan Mana	... 18	Bar-Amritberia
2.	Surendra Nath Kar	... 28	Do
3.	Dhirendra Nath Digar	... 32	Tikarampur

(b) ISHWARPUR—NANDIGRAM P.S.

(Dead—4, Wounded—1, Date—27-9-42)

4.	Tarendra Nath Mondal	...	32	Gourchack
5.	Banu Rana	...	54	Bamunara
6.	Bhuta Nath Sahoo	...	35	Do
7.	Govinda Chandra Das	..	40	Kulup

(c) BRINDABANPUR—NANDIGRAM P.S.

(Dead—2, Wounded—3)

8.	Gourhari Kamila	...	16	Bazabaria
9.	Gunadhar Sahoo	...	35	Dhanyasri

(d) MAHISHADAL POLICE STATION.

(Dead 13, Wounded 43, Date—29. 9. 42)

10.	Bholanath Maity	...	36	Baksichack
11.	Srihari Charan Das	...	32	Do
12.	Ashutosh Kuila	...	18	Madhabpur
13.	Sudhir Chandra Hazra	...	27	Karak
14.	Prasonna Kumar Bhunia	...	44	Rajrampur
15.	Panchanan Das	...	39	Harikhali
16.	Dwaraka Nath Sahoo	...	57	Tajpur
17.	Gunadhar Handel	...	40	Khakda
18.	Surendra Nath Maity	...	27	Nai-Gopalpur
19.	Surendra Nath Maity	...	16	Sundra
20.	Jogendra Nath Das	...	35	, do
21.	Rakhal chandra Samanta	...	28	Ghagra
22.	Khudiram Bera	...	30	Chiugrimari

(56)

(e) TAMLUK TOWN—SANKARARA BRIDGE
POLICE STATION & CIVIL COURT

(Dead—10, Wounded—22, Date—29-9-42)

23.	Upendra Nath Jana	...	28	Khanchi
24.	Purna Chandra Maity	...	24	Ghatowal
25.	Rameswar Bera	...	45	Kjakhali
26.	Bishnupada Chakravarty	...	25	Nikasi
27.	Sm. Matangini Hazra	...	73	Alinan
28.	Nagendra Nath Samanta	...	33	do
29.	Lakshmi Narayan Das	...	12	Mathuri
30.	Jiban Krishna Bera	...	18	do
31.	Purimadhab Pramanik	...	13	Dariberia
*32.	Bhusan Chandra Jana	...	32	Paikpari

(f) NANDIGRAM POLICE STATION

(Dead 4, Wounded 16, Date—30-9-42)

33.	Behari Lal Karan	...	22	Amratala
34.	Sk. Allauddin	...	40	Mahammadpur
35.	Behari Lal Hazra	...	24	Haripur
*36.	Paresh Chandra Giri	...	30	Bahadurpur

(g) BASUDEVPUR—SUTAHATA P. S.

(Dead 1, Wounded 6, Date—1-10-42)

37.	Brajagopal Das	...	17	Pana
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(h) PURBA LAKSHYA—TAMLUK P.S.

(Dead 2, Wounded 4, Date—6-10-42)

38.	Bipin Behari Mondal	...	32	Kismat Putputia
39.	Chandra Mohan Dinda	...	19	do

*Died in hospital (Tamluk)

Total number of killed—40 : Total number of wounded—99.

(57)

(I) GHOLPUKUR—NANDIGRAM P.S.

(Dead 1, Wounded 3, Date—8-10-42)

40. Muchiram Das ... 40 Birulia

(J) SRIKRISHNAPUR—MAHISHADAL P.S

(Wounded 1. Date—19-2-43)

HOUSE BURNT BY SOLDIERS

TAMLUK SUBDIVISION

Sutahata P.S.

Serial No.	Name of the Houseowner	Village	Date of occurrence.	Amount of Loss. t
1.	Dr. Janardan Hazra ...	Sizberia	3-10-42	3,000
2.	Amulya Charan Khatua	Anantapur	--do--	6,000
3.	Anil Kumar Khatua ...	--do--	--do--	6,000
4.	Jatindra Nath Khatua...	Anantapur	3-10-42	6,000
5.	Aswini Kumar Khatua	--do--	--do--	6,000
6.	Jatindra Nath Maity ...	Rajarampur	--do--	1,000
7.	"Arya Mission" House of Bhuban Bera	Ramgopal- chack	6-10-42	150
8.	Kanai Lal Jana (Khadi Shop)	Chaitanyapur	--do--	2,000
9.	Bhusan Bera	Ramgopal- chack	--do--	200
10.	Kokil Chandra Das	Pana	7-10-42	200
11.	Surendra Nath Das	--do--	--do--	200
12.	Tarak Chandra Pramanik	Birinchiberya	8-10-42	500
13.	Dhairy Pramanik	--do--	--do--	700
14.	Kshetra Pramanik	--do--	--do--	350

Serial No.	Name of the Houseowners	Village	Date of occurrence.	Amount of Loss.
15.	Gostha Pramanik	... Birinchiberya	8-10-42	355
16.	Ramhari Pramanik	.. —do—	—do—	325
17.	Tarini Kumar Tunga	.. Bhuniaray- chack	—do—	14,000
18.	Nanigopal Samanta	. —do—	—do—	800
19.	Hrishikesh Ghora	. —do—	—do—	400
20.	Jamini Kanta Maji	. Joynagar	9-10-42	950
21.	Upendra Nath Bera	. —do—	—do—	800
22.	Ambika Charan Ghora	. —do—	—do—	7,000
23.	Basanta Kumar Ghora	. —do—	—do—	550
24.	Bhusan Chandra Ghora	—do—	—do—	550
25.	Sarat Chandra Maity	—do—	—do—	650
26.	Indranarayan Maity	—do—	—do—	350
27.	Mukunda Lal Maity	—do—	—do—	300
28.	Indranath Manna	—do—	—do—	350
29.	Bhutunath Ghora	. —do—	—do—	350
30.	Gajendra Nath Ghora	. Joynagar	9-10-42	350
31.	Dhirendra Nath Ghora	. —do—	—do—	350
32.	Bibhuti Bhusan Bera	. —do—	—do—	750
33.	Gurai Chandra Bera	. —do—	—do—	250
34.	Manmatha Nath Bera	. —do—	—do—	500
35.	Gunadhar Bera	. —do—	—do—	700
36.	Monmatha Nath Bera (Chotta)	. —do—	—do—	800
37.	Nani Gopal Bera	. —do—	—do—	800
38.	Ekadasi Bera	. —do—	—do—	250
39.	Jyoti Prasad Ghora	.. —do—	—do—	700
40.	Rakhal Chandra Ghora	.. —do—	—do—	350
41.	Mukti Sopan Griha	.. Hadia	15-10-42	500

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Serial No.	Name of the Houseowners	Village	Date of occurrence.	Amount of Loss.
42.	Binode Behari Maity	Brajalal-chack	15-10-42	1,000
43.	Harijan Vidyalaya	Iswarda	--do--	300

MAHISHADAL P.S.

44.	Thana Congress office	Sundra	5-10-42	1,000
45.	Nilmoni Hazra	Rajaram-pur	15-10-42	850

M P.S.

46.	Congress Office	Iswarpur	29- 9-42	500
47.	Girish Chandra Das	--do--	--do--	150
48.	Nilkanta Das	--do--	--do--	150
49.	Sashi Bhusan Bhunia	Hanubhunia	8-10-42	200
50.	Congress Office	Gholepukur	--do--	500
51.	Haradhan Pradhan	Chandipur	11-10-42	300
52.	Makhanlal Midda	Ratanpur	12-10-42	250

CYCLONE

iana.

53.	Satish Chandra Maity ..	Babupur	16-10-42	3,000
54.	Ashutosh Maity ..	--do--	--do--	2,500
55.	Mrigendra Nath Maity ..	--do--	--do--	2,000
56.	Purna Chandra Maity ..	--do--	--do--	250
57.	Kedar Nath Das ..	--do--	--do--	400
58.	Bhagabati Charan Maity	Chaitanya-pur	--do--	2,000

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AFTER CYCLONE

Serial No.	Name of the Houseowners	Village	Date of occurrence.	Amount of Loss.
59.	Sridhar Chandra Sahoo	Babupur	23-10-42	100
60.	Purna Chandra Maity	—do—	—do—	400 Second time
61.	Sachindra Nath Nayak	—do—	—do—	100
62.	Kedar Nath Das	—do—	—do—	100 Second time
63.	Satish Chandra Maity	—do—	—do—	100 Second time
64.	Jatindra Nath Jana	Guabaria	24-10-42	1,000
65.	Sukumar Maity	Amlat	—do—	3,000
66.	Kedar Nath Maity	Bar-dha- nyaghata	—do—	1,000
67.	Paresh Chandra Maity	—do—	—do—	100
68.	Bhuban Chandra Maity	—do—	—do—	200
69.	Jogendra Nath Mal	—do—	—do—	250
70.	Sridhar Chandra Mondal	Murarichack	—do—	2,000
71.	Panchanan Mondal	—do—	—do—	350
72.	Debendra Nath Samanta	—do—	—do—	1,500
73.	Surendra Nath Samanta	—do—	—do—	1,000
74.	Indranarayan Samanta	—do—	—do—	1,500
75.	Krishna Prasad Bera	—do—	—do—	600
76.	Kalipada Bera	—do—	—do—	300
77.	“Natya Mandir”	—do—	—do—	300
78.	Mahendra Nath Bera	—do—	—do—	700
79.	Bhuban Chandra Maity	Pana	26-10-42	200
80.	Mukunda Lal Manna	—do—	—do—	250
81.	Panchanan Manna	—do—	—do—	200
82.	Nagendra Nath Sheet	—do—	—do—	150
83.	Abinash Chandra Maity	Dariberia	—do—	100
84.	Nandalal Bhunia	Pana	—do—	500

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MAHISHADAL P. S.

Serial No.	Name of Houseowners	Village	Date of occurrence.	Amount of Loss.
85.	Sarat Chandra Bag	... Goalberia	24-10-42	1,000
86.	Congress Office	... Chunakhali	27-10-42	300
87.	Nandalal Das	... Baitkundu	29-10-42	2,000
88.	Gujendra Nath Das	... —do—	—do—	2,000
89.	Surendra Nath Das	... —do—	—do—	2,000
90.	Monindra Nath Bhowmik	Chandipur	—do—	600
91.	Hrishikes Bhowmik	... —do—	—do—	350
92.	Nilmoni Maity	... Lakshya	30-10-42	200
93.	Prabodh Chandra Bera	... —do—	—do—	550
94.	Sridhar Chandra Jana	... —do—	—do—	1,050
95.	Panchanan Bera	... Kalikakundu	—do—	1,100
96.	Bhupati Charan Patra	... —do—	—do—	1,250
97.	Satpati Charan Patra	... —do—	—do—	1,200
98.	Pravat Chandra Kuila	... —do—	—do—	1,400
99.	Monmatha Nath Kuila	... —do—	—do—	1,000
100.	Atul Chandra Kuila	... —do—	—do—	300
101.	Hiralal Kuila	... —do—	—do—	300
102.	Bhutunath Kuila	... —do—	—do—	250
103.	Anudhawaz Kuila	... —do—	—do—	2,200
104.	Pulin Behari Kuila	... —do—	—do—	350
105.	Mahendra Nath Kuila	... —do—	—do—	550
106.	Dhirendra Nath Kuila	... —do—	—do—	800
107.	Panchanan Kuila	... —do—	—do—	350
108.	Asutosh Guria	... —do—	—do—	200
109.	Asutosh Jana	... Lakshya	—do—	500

NANDIGRAM P. S.

110.	Jabakusum Bhaktadas	... Dhanyasri	27-10-42	4,600
111.	Satish Chandra Sahoo	... Khodambari	30-10-42	1,500

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Serial No.	Name of Houseowners	Village	Date of occurrence	Amount of Loss.
112.	Mritunjoy Sahoo	... Khodambari	30-10-42	1,000
113.	Behari Lal Sahoo	... —do—	—do—	150
114.	Sristidhar Pal	... Dhanyasri	—do—	150
115.	Sudhir Chandra Das	... Babuia	2-11-42	300
116.	Balaram Das	... —do—	—do—	700
117.	Basab Jana	... Baraghuni	—do—	500

**NAMES OF THE RAPED WOMEN
TAMLUK SUB-DIVISION (Midnapore)**

Sutahata P. S.

Name	Age	Village	Date	No.of culprits
1. Kamalabala Dolai	16	Deulpota	6-1-43	2
2. to 6.....(unwilling to expose)				

TAMLUK P. S.

7. Female train passenger	18	Mechada Stn.	6-10-42	1
8. —do—	30	—do—	—do—	1
9. One lady	36	Bargechia	9-10-42	1

NANDIGRAM P. S.

10. Wife of Syamachand Das	25	Purusottampur	1-10-42	2	
		Pregnant			
11. Benodini Das	28	Dih-i-Kasimpur	11-10-42		
12. Wife of Manindra Jana	22	Bhagabankhali	do		
13. One lady	29	Banichack	13-12-42		
14. Saila Bala Dasi	20	Kandapasra	16- 1-43		
15. to 18. (Unwilling to expose)					

MAHISHADAL P. S.

19. Charubala Karan	50	Lakshya	26-10-42	1
20. Kamala Bhownik	22	Chandipur	27-10-42	1
21. Charubala Hazra	25	—do—	—do—	1
22. Kusum Kumari Hazra	—	—do—	—do—	1

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	Name	Age	Village	Date	No. of culprits
23.	Sindhulala Maity	21	Chandipur	27-10-42	2
			(Raped afterwards once again and consequently died).		
24.	One lady	20	Chunakhali	1-1-43	1
25.	One widow	25	Tetulbera	3-1-43	1
26.	Wife of Gunadhar Maji	--	Purba Srirampur	21-4-43	
27.	Kananbala Maity	19	Masuria	9-1-43	1
28.	Kishori Bala Kuila	19	—do—	—do—	2
29.	Hiran Bala Kuila	17	—do—	—do—	3
30.	Dewani Bera	24	—do—	—do—	2
31.	Charubala Das	14	—do—	—do—	2
32.	Ambika Bala Maity	16	—do—	—do—	1
33.	Rajbala Bera	15	—do—	—do—	1
34.	Kusum Kumari Bera	32	—do—	—do—	1
35.	Bhagibala Dei	19	—do—	—do—	2
				widow	
36.	Tukubala Bera	16	—do—	—do—	3
37.	Rasmani Pal	15	—do—	—do—	1
38.	Kiranbala Kuila	26	—do—	—do—	1
39.	Sailabala	22	—do—	—do—	1
40.	Chikanbala Mondal	16	—do—	—do—	2
41.	Kiranbala Gayan	19	—do—	—do—	2
42.	Snehalata Dinda	16	—do—	—do—	1
43.	Pauti Bala Dhara	29	—do—	—do—	1
44.	Raimani Paria	30	—do—	—do—	1
45.	Kiranbala Seeth	32	—do—	—do—	2
46.	Sushilabala Pal	22	—do—	—do—	2
47.	Droupadi Maji	24	—do—	—do—	1
48.	Niradabala Dei	35	—do—	—do—	2
				widow	

